



UDKAST

til tale til brug for justitsministerens indlæg på ICPRA's konference i København den 26. maj 2010

Det talte ord gælder

[Intro]

1. First of all, I would like to thank you, Mr. O'Connor, and you, Mr. Ibsen, for inviting me to address the International Council of Police Representative Association at your conference.

I am very proud, that this year the ICPRA has chosen to hold your conference here in Copenhagen.

You have come from many places in the world, and I wish you all a very warm welcome to our capital.

2. Hosting the ICPRA here in Copenhagen indeed gives proof that the world has become much smaller, and that travelling around the world is today easier than ever.

There is no doubt in my mind that this is for the better.

However, it has at the same time also become much easier for criminals to move around as well. This goes for the international terrorist groups and organized criminal organisations but also for the more ordinary criminals.

Being part of a globalized world therefore also calls for close cooperation between national police forces.

In this regard, it is very important that dedicated police men and women come together and discuss the challenges that we all face in a world that has become more and more globalized.

This conference of your organisation – the International Council of Police Representative Association – with members from four continents around the world illustrates this very well.

[International Police Missions]

3. I have noticed from the agenda for your conference that you will touch upon a lot of interesting subjects.

In particular, I have with great interest noticed that today you will talk about the role of the police in post-conflict areas or other fragile areas.

In both a Danish context as well as internationally there is currently a lot of talk about, how to improve stabilisation and peace-building in fragile and conflict-affected states.

This has been accompanied by an increasing demand for development of national and global pools of civilian experts that can deliver stabilisation and peace-building through short-term and long-term assignments in conflict and non-permissive environments.

To this end the police play an important role being one of the key players, when it comes to fostering the “rule of law”.

Many countries around the world take part in different missions.

I know that the missions vary a lot, but I do believe that advising, mentoring and training local police officers is the way to go, if we want to help building up a professional police force in the state in question on the way to a even more democratic and stable society.

4. Denmark currently has about 45 police officers stationed in different areas of the world participating in a number of missions mainly in the Middle East, Kosovo and Afghanistan.

In Denmark we are currently looking in to how to get more out of our efforts and how we can improve Denmark’s ability to deploy civilian experts – including police officers – in selected functional areas in bilateral assignments as well as multilaterally through, *for instance*, EU, UN, NATO and OSCE.

In our work, we are very much inspired by the way that this challenge has been handled by, *for instance*, Canada.

Right now the Danish National Police is also just about to finish a new strategy for the participation of Danish police in international missions.

And I very much welcome you discussions on this subject.

[Financial crisis and balancing the expectations]

5. You have also chosen to put on the agenda the challenges of the police in light of the financial crisis.

This is indeed a very important subject, as well.

Throughout the years the challenges of the police have in many ways just kept growing. New types of crime keep emerging all the time and politicians keep expecting more.

The days where policing was just about fighting crime is over. For instance, as I just mentioned, police nowadays also play an important role in assisting the international community in its effort to help fragile areas around the world.

6. And in a time where the world is struck by a financial crisis and where the public spending is under pressure the conditions under which you have to work have not been made any easier.

This fact emphasises the need to use the resources we have in the best possible manner.

[The role of the police in a democratic society]

7. And allow me to dwell a little bit more on this subject of trust as well as the role of the police in a democratic society.

As police men and women you are all responsible for one of the most important tasks in a democratic society – that is to ensure safety, security and justice that are all fundamental values in a democracy.

In other words, the police constitute one of the cornerstones in a society build on the rule of law.

On that background it is, of course, important that we have a modern and professional police force. The question then is what makes a police force modern and professional.

In many ways the answer to this question is trust.

We have to trust that the police are impartial and treat every one of us equally and do not misuse powers. Trust also means that it has to be easily accessible to the public.

In a time where the challenges of the police only seem to grow larger all the time it is not always easy to meet the expectations. Prioritization becomes important but it must never lead us to compromise our trust in the police.

8. I am proud that we in Denmark have a modern professional police. A police trusted by the citizens.

The Danish police have during recent years undergone an extensive reform. And we now have a more modern framework with effective and solid police districts better suited for tackling the challenges of the future with more and more complex crime and transnational crime.

With the reform we also have a more uniform police and thereby a more uniform service of the public in the different districts.

Reforms are never easy to implement, and it would not be an understatement to say that it has been a bumpy ride the last couple of years; I am sure, that Mr. Ibsen can nod at this!

But we are now finally benefiting from the hard work and the goal is definitely in sight.

[COP15]

9. When Denmark asked for and was given the honour to host the Climate Conference here in Copenhagen we also accepted an enormous challenge for the police.

In fact it was the largest and most challenging task the Danish police had ever faced with world leaders coming in from all over the world.

The police had been preparing the conference for a long time and in this process the police took great benefit from the experiences from similar events held in other countries.

The overall impression of the work of police during those busy days in December last year is that everyone did a fantastic job.

10. The police operation during the Climate Conference has given rise to a number of complaints which have been brought before the courts.

However, in a democratic society it is only natural – and necessary – that the citizens and the media pay close attention to the acts of the police; and that citizens take actions against the police if they believe that the police have misused their powers.

Thus, in a modern society an efficient system on the controlling of the police is of utmost importance in order to ensure the general trust of the police.

[Ending]

11. You have many other interesting subjects on the agenda for this conference – and I know that you are eager to get started on the discussions!

So I think that I should better stop now.

Let me once again welcome you all to Copenhagen and wish you all a fruitful and inspiring conference.

Thank you very much for your attention.